



MONTEREY NEWS

MARCH 1995



THE TOWN

During the evening on Sunday, February 5, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus entered the Town Hall prepared to take care of some routine Police Department office work. Instead of the usual tidiness, he was confronted with a layer of black soot covering everything. All the desks, computers, copy machine, tables, fax, phone, floor, and ceiling were covered with black soot. Apparently it had backed up in the furnace and been blown out through the heating ducts. Backhaus immediately contacted Select Board Chair Peter Brown, who immediately contacted the Town's insurance agent, Mark Lundegren of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. Early the next morning (Monday) a professional cleaning service arrived, and by 7 p.m. (the time of the regular meeting of the Select Board) everything looked good as new. The only clues as to what had transpired were the cleaning equipment and solvents grouped in the middle of the room, and the poor air quality in the building (either from the soot or the solvents, it was difficult to tell).

During the Select Board meeting that night, the Board discussed Agway's automatic oil-delivery program with Aaron Clark, manager of Agway Energy Products. Agway has twice allowed the oil to run out, and the Board advised Clark that this probably contributed to the furnace back-up which resulted in substantial repair and cleaning costs. In response to the Board's comments and complaints about the vendor service, Clark outlined some changes that Agway is instituting to improve service. Select Board Chair Peter Brown inquired as to



MAGGIE LEONARD

whether Agway would pay repair and cleaning costs incurred by the Town, and Clark responded that he would investigate the situation to see if this was possible.

The Select Board met with Harry Conklin and Lucy Prashker of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee to discuss the "one-man, one-vote" proposal, and to propose other methods of creating a fair and equal School Committee. Also present at the meeting were Finance Committee members John Ryder, Greta Cherneff, and Daniel Moriarty. Ms. Prashker made a presentation on behalf of the School Committee that included an historical review of the one-man, one-vote problem—namely, that the current system for electing members to the School Committee does not comply with the Constitution. She explained that all votes must be

equally weighted, and under the present system some towns are over-represented, while others are under-represented. The State has alerted the SBR School Committee about the inequality, and expects the District to remedy the situation.

Ms. Prashker then outlined the current proposal for reforming the election process. The School Committee is now a ten-member board. The new proposal intends to retain the ten-member board, but instead of two representatives from each of the five member towns, one representative would be elected from each of the five towns (for a total of five members) and five representatives would be chosen at large, with the proviso that no more than four representatives be allowed from any one town out of the at-large voting. In this way no single town could control the School Committee. Ms. Prashker explained the merits of the plan as follows: district-wide voting satisfies

the Constitutional requirement; the residency requirement gives each town a voice on the School Committee, and is in the spirit of equal representation; and the at-large voting encourages people who want to be involved to participate in the School Committee.

The Select Board has announced the following deadlines relating to the Annual Town Meeting: March 13, budget completed; April 3, Warrant closed; April 10, Warrant signed by Board; Friday, April 28, at 8 p.m., "Baby" Town Meeting (informational meeting regarding the Warrant); April 29, last day for posting Warrant; May 6, Annual Town Meeting.

Select Board member Georgiana O'Connell proposed that an article be included on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to change to the name "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board". The item was tabled pending review of the proposed article's wording. O'Connell stated that the change would help pave the way for more women to run for office in town, and also recounted that "even in this day and age" people had told her they wouldn't vote for her because she is a woman.

— Maggie Leonard



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PUBLIC HEARING: NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION

The Planning Board of Monterey will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, in the town offices, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 40A, Section 5) on proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw of the town.

The subject matter of the public hearing is the text of the proposed amendments that would adopt Massachusetts General Law (Chapter 40, Section 21D) which provides for the "Non-Criminal Disposition" of violations of Town and Zoning Bylaws. The purpose of the change is to avoid criminal action in the courts. The proposal will be on the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting.

A copy of the proposed revised Zoning Bylaw dated February 21, 1995, is on file and may be inspected in the office of the Town Clerk.

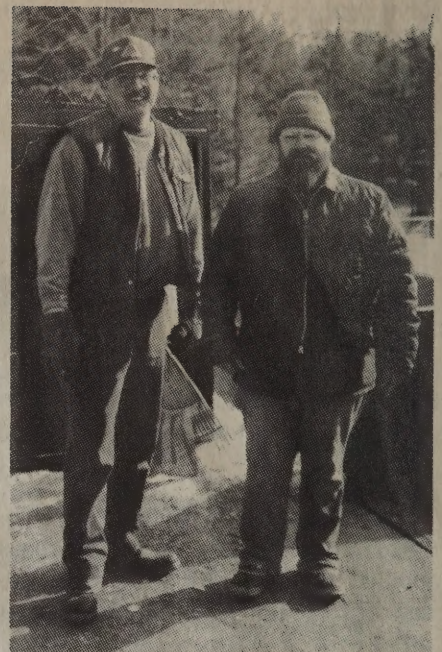
— Wayne Burkhart, Chairman
Monterey Planning Board

DEMOCRATS LIST ELECTIVE OFFICES

Any citizen interested in serving the town through one of the following offices, for which elections will be held this spring, contact the Nominating Committee of the Monterey Democrats:

Board of Appeals, 1 member, 5 years
Board of Assessors, 1 member, 3 years
Board of Selectmen, 1 member, 3 years
Cemetery Committee, 1 member, 3 years
Finance Committee, 1 member, 3 years
Library Trustee, 2 members, 3 years each
Planning Board, 1 member, 5 years
Parks Commission, 1 member, 3 years
School Committee, single rep., 2 years
Tax Collector, 3 years
Treasurer, 3 years
Constable, 3 years
Moderator, 1 year
Tree Warden, 1 year.

— Cynthia Weber



Joe Mallory and Rex Johnson.

GARBOLOGIST IN MONTEREY

Master Garbologist, Inc., of New Marlborough, has signed a five-year contract with the town to manage our solid waste transfer station. Joe Mallory (the Master himself) and Rex Johnson (our new attendant) reorganized the bins for dropping off papers, plastic, bottles, and cans one Wednesday in February. They arranged all the bins in a close circle, so delivery of a typical mixed load involves only a few steps, and Rex can easily keep an eye on the action to be certain the right stuff goes in the right place the right way. Joe Mallory and his wife Robin, who run the Master Garbologist together, have earned a good reputation for their commitment to recycling, and Monterey residents can look forward to some friendly help in making things work. Soon we'll be able to dispose of used motor oil, oil filters, paint thinner, and anti-freeze in an appropriate way, all in one location—which used to be called the dump.

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REPUBLICAN CAUCUS SET

All registered Republicans are urged to attend a caucus on Saturday, March 11, at 1:30 p.m. in the firehouse, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the upcoming local elections.

There will be a Republican Town Committee meeting at 1 p.m. preceding the caucus to finalize the Committee's nominations to the caucus. As usual, there is at least one position on every elected town board and there are many other positions

up for election this year. Anyone with interest in serving the town should contact either Mark Makuc (528-1382) or Fran Amidon (528-1233).

— Mark Makuc

SPRING PERC TEST PERIOD

The period for percolation tests and deep observation holes will be March 1 to May 31, 1995. This decision was taken by the Board of Health on February 13, 1995.

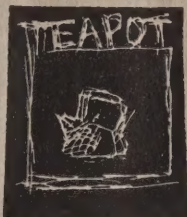
In accordance with the provisions of the state Environmental Code, Title 5, 310 CMR 15.03(4)(c), testing in the early part of the period will depend on the weather, since percolation tests may not be made in frozen soil.

All those wishing to have holes and tests witnessed, pursuant to 310 CMR 15.03(1), should contact Monterey's Sanitary Inspector, Peter J. Kolodziej at 243-5540 not less than seventy-two hours (three days) prior to the time and date proposed for digging the holes and conducting tests. In case of emergency or highly unusual circumstances, it may be possible to arrange witnessing on shorter notice. Final determination of a convenient date and time will be a matter of mutual agreement and may well be more than three days from the time of initial contact.

— Peter S. Brown, Chair
Stefan Grotz
Georgiana C. O'Connell
(Monterey Board of Health)

COUNCIL ON AGING

Free income tax counseling will be offered to Berkshire County senior citizens through the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Volunteers



trained by the Internal Revenue Service will help taxpayers understand the tax codes and the special provisions available for the elderly and retired. Please call the Great Barrington Senior Center (528-1881) for an appointment. Appointments will be

scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on March 3, 17, and 31, and April 14. Participants are asked to bring copies of their federal and state 1993 tax returns, as well as forms for the current year.

Twenty delegates appointed by Governor Weld will attend the 1995 White House Conference on Aging in the first week of May. Merlyn Girard of North Adams, member of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Citizen's Advisory Committee, will represent our area. At the conference, the first one to be held since 1981, delegates will make recommendations on future policies for the aging. Their recommendations will help establish priorities which will then be reviewed and more fully developed by the governor.

— Pauline Nault

Monterey United Church of Christ Sunday Services • 10 a.m.

For assistance & information:

Bob Emmel (Clerk, Trustee)	528-1321
Tom O'Brien (Trustee)	269-7471
Judy Hayes (Worship)	528-1874

With a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain:

MaryKate Jordan	528-5557
Mary or Ray Ward	528-9243
Judy Hayes	528-1874

MONTEREY CHURCH NEWS

By this time next month, Reverend Keith Snow will have officially arrived. His first Sunday as Pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ will be March 26. It is an exciting time for him to begin, as we head toward Easter in the church calendar, and we look forward to his arrival with eagerness and joy.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! ... Enter his gates with Thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!" (from Psalm 100)

Lenten plans are still being formulated, but we expect a Bible study to begin on Wednesday, March 1. Time and place are not set yet, but those interested can contact one of the people listed below for further details.

We also plan to "resurrect" the Monterey Church Choir, after a hiatus of several months. The choir will "sing to the Lord a new song" on Palm Sunday, if all goes well.

The next Parish Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP — 10 a.m.

The schedule of Sunday services for March is as follows:

March 5 (Communion Sunday) • Led by MaryKate Jordan

March 12 • Led by Rev. Kenneth Taylor

March 19 • Led by MaryKate Jordan

March 26 • Led by Rev. Keith Snow. (Hallelujah!)

Many thanks to all the guest ministers who have given so freely of their time over the past year. It truly has been a rewarding—and challenging—year. But the cooperation of all those who agreed to serve throughout the year has carried us through, and is greatly appreciated. We have been truly blessed with an abundance of wonderful people whose time and talents have made this a successful, meaningful, and inspirational year for the church. God bless you all.

— Judy Hayes

DAFFODIL DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

Most of you are waiting to hear when and where you may acquire your daffodils this year. I know because you remind me with greetings of, "Hi Fran, Oh! It must be daffodil time again!" For those not yet acquainted with this project, ten cut daffodils—still tightly budded—are sold for \$5 a bunch to benefit the American Cancer Society. You order now, before March 10, and pick them up on March 22, 1995 at the Monterey General Store. Callers are at work phoning neighbors for orders. If you have not been contacted, please call Mary Ellen Brown at 528-1598, or Fran Amidon at 528-1233.

This is the eighth year daffodils have been gracing our homes, and the sales benefiting A.C.S. The flowers come from California, and are exceptionally large and lovely; they last well due to the fact that they come in bud, and open up after you receive them.

Callers are Paula Boyer, Ruth Champigny, Carol Edelman, Linda Gero, Stephanie Grotz, Kim Hines, Karen Hutson, Jack Jefferson, Maggie Leonard, Tracy Mendel, Neil Orenstein, Elizabeth Pizzichemi, and Cynthia Weber.

Don't forget to pick them up on March 22, 1995, at the Monterey General Store!

— Fran Amidon

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The Blades, champions of the Sixth Annual Monterey Cup. Left to right, Phil Newey, Captain (and Cup MVP) Mick Burns, Scott Steele, Jay Amidon, Rick Andrus, and (kneeling) goalie Mark Mendel.

THE BLIZZARD CUP

What was the only event in Berkshire County not canceled during the blizzard on Saturday, February 4? The Sixth Annual Monterey Ice Hockey Tournament! All six teams showed up for the 10 a.m. start, and battled it out in the comfort of our closed rink during the fury of the storm for about five hours. The only way we knew there was a storm was that whenever someone went out to cook up a hamburger on the grill, he came back in covered with snow.

Almost all of the thirty participants were from Monterey or nearby Otis and New Marlborough, although skaters with local roots travelled from such far-away places as Washington, D.C., Watertown, New York, and Bristol, Rhode Island, just to play in the Cup. There were two generations of Fennells on the ice (Bill Sr.—age sixty-five—Bill Jr., Steve, and Patrick) as well as Daryl and Cory Jassen, father and son. Courtney Sirois became the first woman to play hockey in Monterey.

The defending champions, Out of Bounds (the Makuc team), breezed through the round robin portion of the tournament by winning all five games to make the first seed in the playoffs. The

Blue Hill Rangers (Jim Thomas' team) came in second with a four-and-one record, while the Gould Farm team (headed up by Dave Markwood and Dan Lacey) placed third, and the Blades (Mick Burns' team) earned fourth seed for the playoffs. Then the upsets began.

The Blades, with the lowest power rating (a numerical handicapping system which takes into account all players on a team roster), surprised the Rangers (who lost star scorer Jed Lipsky to a back injury early in the day) with a 2-0 decision to move into the finals. There they met the defending champs, Bounds, who beat Gould Farm 1-0 in the semis. Out of Bounds looked like they had it all under control with a 3-0 lead and only minutes left in the game, when tournament MVP Mick Burns went to work scoring three quick goals, the last with twelve seconds left, sending the game into sudden-death overtime.

Playing next-goal-wins-the-Cup, the overtime action was fast-paced. Blades goalie Mark Mendel made a great save on sharp shooter Kevin Foss, and kept the Blades in it long enough for Mick Burns to do it again and bang in the championship goal: Blades 4, Bounds 3 in OT.

Second place Out of Bounds has



MAGGIE LEONARD



TOM ROSENTHAL

Clockwise, from the top: Some of the action, Gould Farm vs. the Rangers; players lace skates and lay on the pads in the changing room (Mark Mendel on the left, Courtney Sirois on the right); the open shelves of the free skate exchange at the rink.

nothing to be ashamed of: this is their third year in a row placing in the top two. Team members were Kip and Mark Makuc, Steve, Billy, and Bill Sr. Fennell, Dave Smith, and Kevin Foss. Members

of the winning Blades were Mick Burns, Jay Amidon, Rick Andrus, Phil Newey, Scott Steele, and Mark Mendel. The Monterey Cup will be inscribed with their names and returned to the library,

where it is on permanent display.

Once again, Jim Thomas, Jed Lipsky, John Humphrey, and the rest of the Rangers say, "Wait 'til next year!"

— Jim Thomas



Anita Carroll-Weldon

BIDWELL HOUSE NEWS

The Bidwell House Museum opens its fifth season with a new director.

Anita Carroll-Weldon comes to the Museum from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, where she was site administrator of the Merwin House in Stockbridge. Anita has also been employed at Hancock Shaker Village as a site interpreter and demonstrator of nineteenth century food ways in the kitchen of the brick dwelling. She moves to Monterey with her husband, Tom Weldon, who has worked as a garden manager at Hancock Shaker Village.

Anita earned her Bachelor of Arts in art and history from Regis College, Weston, Massachusetts; past work experience includes designing public spaces for architectural and interior design firms in Boston, doing free-lance graphic design, and teaching music and crafts to children and adults.

Through her local museum experience, Anita has become familiar with the excellent work Lisa Simpson did at The Bidwell House, and plans to continue it.

The season will open with the installation of an eighteenth and nineteenth century vegetable garden, which will feature plants grown from heirloom seeds. Tours of the garden will be offered throughout the summer. Bring your straw hat and your hoe!

More craft workshops for adults and programs for children will be offered. Under Anita's directorship, The Bidwell House and its beautiful woodlands will continue to be an integral part of Monterey and Berkshire County.

BERKSHIRE ROAD MONEY

An unsolicited, unedited letter from Fourth Berkshire District Representative Christopher Hodgkins.

Even though the Boston Harbor and the construction of the Third Harbor Tunnel/Central Artery project under it is nowhere near the Fourth Berkshire District, I am working hard to make sure that project is not usurping much-needed transportation dollars out of southern Berkshire County.

Because the projected price tag on the artery project has skyrocketed to an outrageous \$9.6 billion, Governor Weld's transportation officials are attempting to funnel federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funds away from already approved highway projects throughout the state. The state transportation secretary, James Kerasiotes, has told the Berkshire County Regional Planning Authority that it must review its \$28 million construction budget for the next two years and suggest cuts that could be as deep as 39% in order to help cover the cost of the "Big Dig" project in Boston.

This is outrageous, seeing as these projects in Berkshire County have already been approved by both the state and federal officials, and some have already gone out to bid. It is a crime that the people who stand to lose the most are the very ones who will use the new tunnel the least!

In addition, for every \$1 million in construction dollars withheld, the poten-

tial for approximately sixty construction jobs is lost in the Berkshires. With the cuts proposed by Kerasiotes, we stand to lose 660 prospective jobs.

I am not going to sit idly by and watch these jobs and this highway money slip through our fingers. I have already contacted the Secretary's office to argue the merits of each of the projects in my district and to express my concerns about the fact that they may fall prey to the mismanagement of the Weld officials charged with overseeing tunnel construction.

I have also contacted federal transportation officials in Washington to apprise them of this attempted highway robbery occurring in the Commonwealth. Furthermore, I have reviewed the balance sheet for federal funding of transportation and road projects in Massachusetts, and there lies a \$758,700,000 balance in unobligated funds. To my understanding, there seems to be enough funding to save the roads in Berkshire County and all other counties in the state from the chopping block.

I plan to keep the heat on both state and federal transportation officials to make sure that the Berkshire County roads get what is rightfully coming to them!

These ISTEA monies were supposed to be used to enhance all of the roads in the Commonwealth, to improve the public safety of all the towns in the Commonwealth, and provide economic opportunity for all local tradespeople in the Commonwealth. I am working to ensure that we get our fair share.

— Christopher J. Hodgkins

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FARMINGTON RIVER PTA NEWS

The Cabin Fever Community Fair is coming Saturday, March 11, from 4 to 9 p.m. The Farmington River Regional School District and its PTA host this event at the Sandisfield Fire House on Route 57. Admission and entertainment are free.

This year's program includes Roger the Jester, the Cabin Fever String Band, and other local musicians.

A smorgasbord for \$2 per plate will be served from 6 until 7:30 p.m.

All organizations serving Otis and Sandisfield are invited to participate. Some conduct games and crafts for children, others provide information about their activities, while some sell baked goods and conduct quilt raffles.

There is a Grand Raffle and a splendid Penny Auction with hundreds of items and gift certificates kindly donated by area businesses. Funds raised by the PTA go toward the student ski program and additional arts and cultural activities.

This community get-together is an enjoyable family event and a must for anyone thinking of relocating to this area.

For additional information contact Erica Fay (258-4037) or Lucie Hobart (269-7173).

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The Pediatric Service has expanded its hours to include late afternoons, 4-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Regular hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. Two board-certified pediatric nurse practitioners see the children for physical exams and sick child visits. Macony Pediatrics provides the services as consulting physicians. Pediatric Services offers families educational resources as well as psychotherapy for children. For more information, please call 528-9311.

South Berkshire Task Force for Families and Children and Children's Health Program will co-sponsor a two-night workshop, "Positive Discipline," led by Melinda Olds, MSW, at the Otis Central School on March 29 and April 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. There is no charge, and childcare will be available. To register please contact Ann Dempsey at the Otis Preschool or Claudette Callahan at 528-9311.

The Family Support Services has obtained several books and videos for the free lending library. We are open to suggestions for topics of interest to area parents. New acquisitions are as follows:

Videos With Love and Wisdom series, by Discovery Toys, Inc. Covers topics of interest for parents of children from birth to two years. *A New Baby in My House*, a Sesame Street video for Siblings. *Richard Scarry's Best Busy People and Sing Along Mother Goose*. *Single Parenting* and *Blended Families* from the Practical Parenting Series.

Books *How to Father*, by Dr. Fitzhugh Dodson. *Do I Have a Daddy?* by Jeanne Warren Lindsay, a story about a single-parent child. *School Age Parents*, *The Challenge of Three-Genera-*

tional Living, also by Ms. Lindsay.

We are fortunate to have the use of Room A-3 at the Undermountain School in Sheffield for a children's clothing exchange and an outreach program. Loren Kinnaman will coordinate the exchange with the assistance of volunteers and outreach workers. The exchange will be open Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., and Fridays, 8:30-10:30 a.m., following the school schedule. Families can donate five items of clean, usable clothing sized birth to twelve years old at these times, and obtain items of comparable value. A family without clothing to donate may give to the Family Emergency Needs Fund at the Children's Health Program. For more information, please call 528-9311.

Here are some March Activities:

March 21 First Day of Spring Party, 1-3 p.m. at Simon's Rock College Gym, Great Barrington. Parents of new babies are encouraged to attend and meet other new parents. Contact the playgroup nearest your home. For more information: call 528-9311.

April 30 Fourth Annual Family Fun Day, 12 noon-4 p.m. at Eden Hill Recreation Center in Stockbridge. We are looking for volunteers to assist with activities and refreshments. Please contact Miriam Cervera at 528-9311 if you would like to help. Proceeds will be used for Family Emergency Needs.

An area resident recently requested that we establish a baby-sitting service—not licensed daycare, but sitters to come to homes. We would like to hear if there is more interest in such a service, and what would be most helpful to area families. Please send a note or call Claudette at 528-9311.

— Claudette Callahan

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DEMOCRATS STUDY SMALL TOWN MANAGEMENT

Part VI: Town Meeting

Town Meeting isn't an elected board or committee, but it functions as the legislative body with which our officials work. It is widely considered fundamental to the democratic tradition, providing all citizens with an equal opportunity to participate in governing themselves. While towns have been established in Massachusetts for more than 300 years, there is no definition of "town" as a municipal organization. Over time, the word has come to mean the entity governed by a Town Meeting.

My own growing comprehension of the work undertaken by office holders, and of the degree to which Town Meeting enables all of us to shape our government has only deepened my conviction of the importance of informing ourselves about local government procedures. Town Meeting, together with the announced informational hearings that precede it, is a forum with a good deal of power. We must learn to use it well.

Apathy is the great threat to democratic government. Citizen participation has to compete for time against the needs of our families, and the demands of our jobs and daily life. If we believe that our participation in town government won't have much effect, there is little to encourage us to attend meetings. However, the entire mood of Town Meeting has often been changed by the effort of a single person, whose clarification of a problem has led to a more knowledgeable vote. Influence lies in going beyond private opinion to an awareness of the needs of the entire citizenry, and a willingness to take a place in the decision-making body, Town Meeting.

It is often laborious. Our Town Meeting has maintained itself and accomplished town business for years, but occasionally many people wish to speak on controversial issues, and some do so at excessive length. This tires the whole group and dulls the thinking. Furthermore, frustrating struggles can develop

around issues only partially understood by an inadequately informed public.

Low attendance can create an unhealthy imbalance between the majority and special-interest groups, which can dominate such a meeting, voting to pass an article which might not have the support of the whole town. Sometimes in our enthusiasm for a special issue, we come to feel exclusive "ownership" of it, and lose sight of the needs of the rest of the town. On the other hand, an important request can be killed by ignorance of its significance, fear of expense, or simply by hostility.

Citizens can become better informed before Town Meeting by attending preliminary hearings and asking questions. Reports of the various town boards published prior to Town Meeting in the annual Town Report are also informative.

To fill in the history of expanded freedom for towns like ours, we quote from *Managing Small Towns*, on the

...Home Rule Amendment to the State Constitution which was adopted by Massachusetts voters in 1966, granting new powers of self-determination to towns. Home Rule changes the State's philosophy towards local government. Towns went from being the step-children of the State Legislature to becoming governments capable of deciding (within limits) how best to meet local needs. It proclaims the right of local self-government as one of the fundamental, constitutionally-protected rights of the people.

It establishes in basic outline form, the procedures by which a town may formulate, adopt, revise, and amend its own municipal charter without obtaining permission from the legislature. While the Home Rule Amendment expanded their autonomy, towns must comply with a host of federal and state laws and regulations...

The Selectmen's most significant function with respect to Town Meeting is preparation of the Warrant. Town Meeting must be "called" by a warrant stating the time and place of the Meeting, and listing all Articles of business on which the townspeople must legally vote.

The Selectmen prepare Articles on

their own initiative, at the request of other town boards, or in response to written petitions signed by at least ten voters. They direct the Warrant to the Constable, who gives notice of the Meeting to townspeople. Ideally the Warrant is closed a month and a half before the scheduled Meeting, and mailed out two weeks prior to it, but delays are often unavoidable. The Selectmen must open and close the Warrant in a timely manner that allows it to be printed and mailed out to voters. Only Articles included in the Warrant may be legally voted on at Town Meeting. Town Counsel reviews the Warrant Articles and attends Town Meeting, offering legal opinions without suggesting decisions.

Issues not formulated in time to be printed in the Warrant may be presented at the end of Town Meeting. This opportunity is referred to in the Warrant as "any other business that can legally be brought before the meeting." Such material should be carefully considered and well thought out before asking the Moderator for time. From now until mid-April, the open Selectmen's meetings on Monday evenings are likely to take up questions related to the Warrant, and can be an excellent way for citizens to inform themselves and prepare for Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee takes center stage at Town Meeting in that the budget offered for voter approval is an important management tool in town government. Finance Committee members have the most detailed and comprehensive picture of the town spending plan, and they hold an informational hearing on the budget during the week preceding Town Meeting. Most citizens, and even other town officials, are unable to review the entire budget line by line. At the hearing the Finance Committee provides, in layman's terms:

1. An accurate account of how funds are to be spent.
2. An explanation of the use of Reserve and Stabilization funds.
3. An analysis of the school budget and related matters.
4. How tax dollars will be used to provide services.
5. A forewarning to taxpayers of



future capital improvement costs. Current prospects include major equipment, machinery, building renovation, library extension, a vault for irreplaceable town records, more parking area, road construction, land purchase (as for cemetery extension), and, sooner or later, a Town Hall.

The success of this hearing depends on a good turnout and the willingness of citizens to question their officials. Careful explanations can reduce confusion and answer objections to major expenditures.

The School Committee also plays an important role at Town Meeting, since school costs are a large part of the town's budget. The school situation will be discussed fully in our April report.

The Town Moderator officiates at Town Meeting. He researches each Article for the type of vote (simple or two-thirds majority) required for passage, and estimates the length and intensity of debate on the various Articles. He may consult the boards or Town Counsel during his preparation as well as during Town Meeting. An effective moderator is well-versed in parliamentary procedure and familiar with local by-laws governing Town Meeting.

The Town Clerk keeps the only official record of the proceedings for legal purposes. She assists the Moderator in a number of ways, such as recording votes. (From a voting list of about 500, last year's Town Meeting was attended by 150; in other words, less than a third of us made decisions for the entire town.)

Quoting *Town Meeting Time*: "For one day a year, The Moderator is the most important man in town." He has the responsibility of reading each Warrant Article and explaining complex or technical issues in lay terms when necessary. When there is controversy and debate, the Moderator provides the framework for orderly discussion, sometimes instructing citizens on procedural details. For instance, the Moderator first reads aloud through the entire Article which comprises the budget; anyone who wishes to discuss a particular line item calls out "hold" after that line is read. The Clerk notes the request, and after the entire

Article has been read, the Moderator returns to any item held and opens the floor to discussion, which may or may not result in a vote to amend the line as written. The vote on the complete budget Article follows any such discussions and/or amendments.

Some familiarity with a few rules of parliamentary procedure can enable citizens to feel more confident at Town Meeting. For example, "calling the question" (which ends discussion and brings an issue to the vote) can be a manipulative tool used to force a vote on an unsuspecting electorate prematurely. It has almost never been used this way at Town Meeting in Monterey in recent years, but should another citizen wish to continue discussion, he or she may simply call "point of order" from the floor. Usually calling the question serves to end a tired debate and move the meeting forward.

The citizens' understanding of the entire Warrant is the basis for intelligent discussion and responsible voting. The Moderator's control of the discussion is his most difficult task. He must invite and encourage discussion, and also limit it. The entire group has to be quiet and attentive. The Moderator has the right to interrupt heated discussion and, if he is ignored, he can call on the Constable to remove participants from the hall.

Following the meeting, the Town Clerk concludes her notes, writing a complete account of the proceedings and providing a certified statement for all transactions and a legal basis for the precise amount of money available for expenditures. This report is sent to the State, to the Town Accountant, the Assessors, the Finance Board, and the Selectmen, together with a ten-page by-law report to the State Attorney General's office.

The election of town officials is also a crucial part of the annual Town Meeting. We use official ballots prepared by the Town Clerk to conform with State law. The Clerk records all votes and administers the oath of office to newly elected officials.

The election is our annual effort to

fill positions with people eager to understand their new jobs and to use their authority for the benefit of the town. We depend on the competence, diligence, and personalities of those we elect.

There is clearly more mutual appreciation than criticism among our officials and townspeople. However, misunderstanding of roles, occasional overlap of activities, questions of inadequate management, and some behind-the-scenes activity on the part of non-elected individuals are also factors.

While it is essential to have citizens eager to affect town affairs, it benefits the town far more when opinions are heard in open meetings or hearings, or as part of a person's service on a board or committee. No one demands a guarantee that officials and townspeople act cooperatively—reluctance to face disagreement or mistakes clouds our judgment. We must ask questions and take positions on issues in order to make decisions together for the benefit of the whole town. This is not just allowable; it is essential.

At the very least, we might feel enjoined to be present at Town Meeting, letting our officials know that we are concerned, accept involvement, and understand the value of our votes.

— Melvene Dyer-Bennet
Vice Chair, Democratic Party



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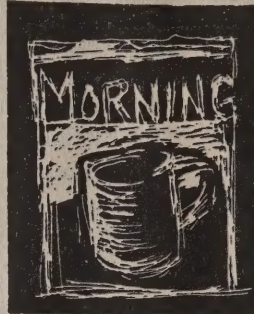


SWIFT NEWSLETTER

We received a press release from the office of state Senator Jane Swift announcing the publication of her first annual newsletter, titled "A Swift Glance at Beacon Hill." A copy of the newsletter did not accompany the press release, but Senator Swift writes that the newsletter "outlines my thoughts on three major legislative issues for 1995 [and] explains many of the bills which I have filed this year and which will (if passed) have an important impact on the communities within the Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin Senatorial District." There is also "an article detailing the proposed changes to our welfare and health care systems in the Commonwealth."

Other features include a piece on the Agricultural Preservation Program, a description of the legislative process, and a public opinion survey.

She says the newsletter is available at all town halls. It can also be mailed directly to constituents who request it by calling the Senator's district office at 413-442-5240.



OLVER DELEGATE SEEKS INPUT ON AGING

Excerpts from a press release by U.S. Representative John Olver.

Elsie Fetterman of Amherst, a delegate appointed by U.S. Representative John W. Olver (D—First District) to the upcoming [May 2–5, 1995] White House Conference on Aging, is combing the First Congressional District for ideas on care for the elderly to bring with her to the national conference.

The purpose of the meeting is to make recommendations for a national aging policy that will take the country into the next century. Though the Conference meets nationally only every two years, hundreds of state and regional events and mini-conferences help to set the agenda.

Fetterman has long been a proponent of providing a social and economic alternative to institutionalizing elders simply because they do not have a family. She is the recipient of a grant from the USDA to study a concept termed "Adult Foster Care," and has made presentations to the American Society on Aging and the American Society of Gerontology. She is also the author of a training manual that includes opinions and suggestions on elder care from over 200 health care providers in Massachusetts.

Anyone interested in passing along ideas on aging to Elsie Fetterman for consideration at the conference are encouraged to write her (148 Logtown Road, Amherst 01002-2739) or send a fax (413-253-3573).

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TEA IN PERPETUITY

The simplest things are usually the most significant. Take tea, a meek beverage no more complex than a bit of fragrant dry matter in a pot, and boiling water. But elaborate ceremonies and whole social structures have evolved in disparate cultures around the drinking of this simple brew.

Afternoon tea as we know it at Gould Farm began in the late 1920s and was characterized by Mrs. Gould's gracious style. In his history of Gould Farm, Will McKee's chapter on Agnes Gould is entitled, "The Lady" (Will Gould's teasing nickname for his wife). I imagine Mrs. Gould served tea with the same aristocratic air with which she dictated letters from her bed, or stepped out of a car "like a square-rigged frigate under full sail." Roma fondly remembers that the tablecloths were always ironed and special tea cups were used. No one took two of anything because whatever there was had to reach for everyone. And, says Roma, people sat to drink their tea, and there were candles. McKee notes that, like meals, teas "have grown much less formal and gracious since the 1960s."

Rose McKee wrote of Aunt Julia, the matriarch in Will Gould's house of women relatives, "Before the afternoon tea hour was established in the downstairs living room, Aunt Julia made and served tea to as many people as her upstairs sitting-room could well accommodate." Rose also wrote of Sunday evenings when "sandwiches and cake were served in the living room where people sat around in a large circle, somehow balancing hot tea or cocoa on their laps. There was an air of festivity about it. Brother Will called it a kind of communion service; and indeed it seemed so."

Harriet tells about an English woman, Granny Robinson, who was so invested in the nicety of afternoon tea that she left money in her will, the astonishing sum of \$100, so there could be "tea in perpetuity at Gould Farm." And indeed, her intentions were successful. Every day at four we come from the gardens, the barns, or from behind our desks into the quiet order of the living room, where pots of tea are steeping on the old brass tray, and



Left to right: Miss Caroline Goodyear, Mrs. Agnes Gould, Miss Eleanor Goodyear.

white cups and saucers are set out on colorful cotton tea cloths. It is a special time of day when all work stops for a bit and then is picked up, as necessary, with a softer rhythm. In winter, the evening pulls up close to the windows and peers in. In summer the doors are open; we spill onto the lawn and throw east-slanting shadows. Birthday Tea, held monthly to celebrate all at once, features cakes and flowers and balloons. Special events are commemorated and special people are honored with a Gould Farm Tea; on such occasions, Faith Colt's silver ser-

vice is brought out and polished, and we have candles.

Loul talks about a neighbor in the early 1970s who would come up the hill on Sunday with her dog to take tea with us. I can't think of many things more pleasant or neighborly to do on a Sunday afternoon. Or many things more significant. Please join us for tea, and a bit of something, every first Sunday of the month at four in the living room at Gould Farm. You will be warmly welcomed.

— Donna Burkhart

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AT THE PUB: WEST OF IRELAND

*I sit in my wet coat beside old Sean Flynn
at the peatfire it is
and listen to his toothless mouth
taste the past*

*we talk: I question life
and he answers the sea
the spray of it yet blue and squint in his eyes
and low tide in his blood*

*men in great gumboots turned at the cuff
and all in black, wearing their old wise caps
some red-headed pale and proud
track more mud through the door yet open
to the mist and summer sheen of bottle green
and quaff their dark-foamed Guinness
the peats smoke and glow*

*through the gruff and gentle Gaelic tongue on them
and Sean Flynn crinkle-eyes me
because I am a fine stout woman he says
and he places his thick hand upon my thigh many times
(for emphasis, mind you!)*

*not as a lecher, I am thinking
but the way in his youth
he might have held the rail on deck in a fair wind
or turned a big white loaf of bread
before cutting it*

*and a man at the bar mentions to a stranger come in
that the tide is not out entirely.*

— A. O. Howell

CLOUDLAND OVER HOUSTON

*This skyworld has a thousand shapes,
Topographies, and cloudlandscapes,
Lakes and valleys, frozen fountains,
Puffy trees, unfolding mountains,
And other cloudlands, layer on layer,
That float serenely in the air.
To support me, it might take the strength
Of snowshoes each a mile in length.*

— David P. McAllester



*A shattering star is
swirling into the bar*

HIBERNATION

*The feral, fetal season
Returned last evening
Blowing brash and sovereign,
Through shadow-maze of trees,
Then settled
In a smug and silent freeze*

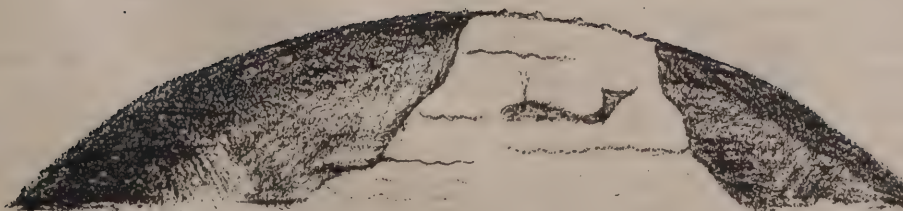
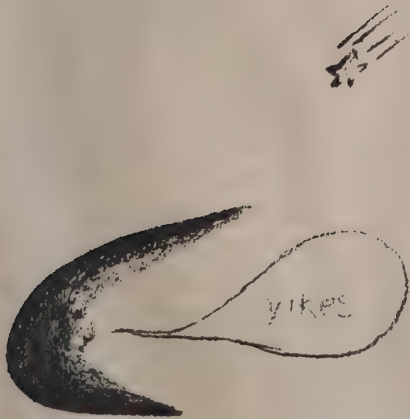
*Still, chill air
brittle and scant.
Luminous twilight tones
Forged
In a clear and crystalline cast.
Earth and root and limb
Subside into iron-bound coma
Sibilant gabble of streams'
Muted
In fabulous frozen forms.*

*Now, in the dark
Jack huddles harsh
Against the house
Prying, persistent fingers
Clutch at the womb-warm light.
Inside*

*I shuffle snack and snooze
Through this rigid recess.
Out
In the brief cold glare
I stumble, bundled, steaming.
Coarse, clumsy
Through taut, sharp scenes
Elegant and dreaming.*

*Raw and ruddy skin
Shrinks
To parchment on my face.
Worming shivers shred
My swaddled, sweating bulk.
I retreat
To rest
In the hissing hearth's hug
Embrace
Drowsy daydreams
Of summer's frenzied bustle.
Murmur
Placid prophecy
Of spring's certain, succulent curl.*

— Nick Hardcastle



WILD CANARIES IN THE WEED-PATCH

For the non-skier, a mild and open winter presents certain boons and much relief. We can be late with the firewood, with putting away the bicycles and laying in sand for the driveway. If we didn't get the plow fixed until Christmas, this was the winter it didn't matter. These little forgivenesses do much to balance the disappointments of a non-white Christmas, a non-skiing winter holiday. Then, just as we think we've made all necessary rationalizations, the snow comes. It's not very deep and is sticky. The plow digs up mud on the driveway and the horses collect snowballs under their feet. Still, it is snow and it feels right in this latitude. It also covers up the bicycles and other leftovers in a way so bold we wouldn't have dared try it ourselves. We don't have any rugs big enough for the job.

Now we can ski, a bit, and look for tracks in the woods. The joys of snow come back to us just in time to make new rationalizations, new adjustments. We have been putting out seeds and suet for the birds for weeks and a few chickadees and juncos have come, also mourning doves and jays. With the first real snow come the first real flocks of little seed eaters. For us, these past few snowy days, the goldfinches have turned out by the hundreds.

"Not really hundreds, Mom," I hear my little sticklers say, as we stand by the kitchen window. But this time I am right, there are hundreds of goldfinches.

The American goldfinch is a gregarious little bird, but flocks this big only occur in the winter. Often pine siskins and redpolls join the goldfinch flocks, but the one that has come to our house the last three mornings is solid goldfinch. To be precise, it is not all that gold. At this time of year the colors are muted, producing what my mother always called "leadfinches." In fact, there is some yellow there, especially on the older males, but nothing like what they wear in sum-

mer. Writing in the early part of this century, Edward Howe Forbush describes the male goldfinch in breeding plumage (summer) as "panoplied in jet and gold." They are easy to distinguish then, being the only birds in New England which are bright yellow with black wings and tail. The females are olive-brown, or grey with a yellow tinge. The males have a black cap, set pretty far forward on the brow, but the females do not.

Some people shop especially for the winter goldfinches, getting thistle seed and thistle-seed feeders. They do love the little black seeds, so rich in oil, but the seeds tend to scatter in the wind, so



unless you want a thistle patch around your feeder you should think about buying seed which has been treated so as not to germinate. Birdseed companies will tell you that this seed is still perfectly good food for the finches.

Goldfinches have been associated so closely with thistles that one name for them is "thistle birds." Not only do they eat the seeds, they also use the down from thistle seed-heads to line their nests. The nest is built mostly by the female, set in the fork of a tree near the end of a branch. The edge of the little cup is bound with caterpillar silk or spider web, and the inside is lined with thistle down. This is woven so tightly that the nest will hold water and some say little goldfinches have been drowned by standing water in a nest after a late summer rain.

The thistle bird appears in illumi-

nated manuscripts of the Middle Ages and is especially associated with the baby Jesus. In southern Italy and Sicily during Easter celebrations, goldfinches used to be released during that part of the pageant when a figure representing Jesus rising from the tomb appeared. Some have speculated that the relationship of the goldfinch with the spiky thistle has brought to mind the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the cross.

The male goldfinch has a sweet song that is long and complicated and reminds people of a canary. He has great dynamic control and can sound soft and faraway and then soar in a crescendo nearby.

Thoreau wrote that the goldfinch was also a good mimic, imitating the songs of brown thrashers and purple finches, and people of his day referred to them as "wild canaries."

Goldfinches are the last birds to nest in the Massachusetts summer. While other birds are quieting down and preparing for family life, the goldfinches are still noisily swooping about in June and July. Some say the reason for such late nesting is that the requisite thistledown is not available until late in the summer. Others point out that neither are the seeds, which are the main part of the goldfinch diet, therefore the birds don't have enough nutritious food to produce or to feed babies until their late summer harvest is in. Unlike most little seed-eating birds, goldfinches do not feed their babies caterpillars. They forage for seeds and carry them in their crops, where they are partly digested. The babies are fed this regurgitant, which has been called "seed-milk."

We have hundreds of leadfinches at our feeder every morning. They also come to the back dooryard to pick over the tall weed seedheads which we thoughtfully left for them. When the snow comes, what may have looked like an unmowed weedpatch, something you didn't get it together to deal with, suddenly reveals itself to be a wild canary larder.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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Mammals

Deer/Coyotes: The next time you see deer tracks in deep snow, where there is a leap and plunge and all four feet come down together, look closely. It might be a coyote: they leap that way, too, when the snow is deep and soft. Dale Duryea says a careful inspection is needed to see whether it's hooves or paws, down there at the bottom. He also says, in spite of what the experts may think, our coyotes are hunting in packs and that in size, appearance, and even genetic makeup they are much closer to the timber wolf than they are to their prairie cousins out West. Dick and Barbara Tryon report more coyote serenading than usual during this recent full moon.

Note: The Fisheries and Wildlife people frown on deer feeding, even though some stores offer tempting deer

snacks so you'll get glimpses of your local cervidae. You may get more glimpses than you want as they browse on your hedges and orchards, and you do the deer dietary harm when you interfere with their natural eating habits.

Young beavers are on the move again in the recent warm weather, as they were in the earlier warm spell. Now that the lake level has been raised, the muskrats show signs that the relatively small draw-down this fall was good for their population.

Bob Rausch saw a raccoon just standing by the Tyringham Valley Road February 12. Joe Baker reports a fisher (!) standing his ground on the Muddy Brook Road. Joe stopped the car and had almost half a minute of viewing time of this big, long-legged weasel in what he called a "once-in-a-lifetime experience." Fishers are very rare this far south of the big boreal forests. Joe also saw a fox leap over the guardrail on Main Road near the end of Hupi. Myrna and Al Schneiderman saw a fox on Hupi Road, too, on February 4. They note: "He/she saw us peeking at him through our bedroom window and ran behind some rocks. He assessed his safety and then ran across the property to Lake Garfield."

David McAllester and Bob Thieriot, while snowshoeing by the Scheffey's Ravine February 7, saw the furrow where an otter tobogganed down that precipitous watercourse.

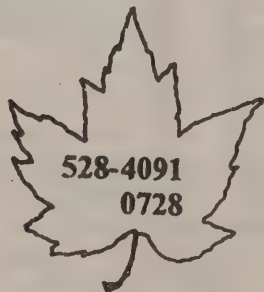
If you doubt the early signs of spring, you'll be glad to know the chipmunks are

out making up their minds, too. The Amidons saw them at Butternut February 17, and Joe Baker saw them on Hupi Road about the same time. At this ambiguous moment some humans are tapping the maples and some are waiting to be convinced.

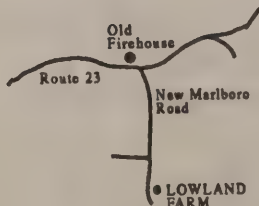
Birds

Chickadees are singing their spring song (Fran Amidon, Loul McIntosh); David and Bonner McAllester saw Maryland Yellowthroats February 15 (but it was in Mexico—guess who was migrating!). Loul writes from Gould Farm: "January was mostly noted for the birds who did not come to the feeders: only an occasional titmouse, whitebreasted nuthatch, blue jay. Not a single evening grosbeak so far. I found out I did not have ALL the goldfinches in the Berkshires when Paula Snyder told me how many she had at daybreak, and I read Bonner's article and knew there were many more goldfinches than were dreamt of in my philosophy. Meanwhile, the first touch of gold is spreading over their plumage, a hint of spring to come. The turkeys are stuffing themselves on the corn we did not harvest down in the gravel area. Steve Snyder reports bluebirds in Sheffield in late January; says he's seen them here other years in February-March."

Connie Ohman saw his biggest flock of turkeys, over fifty, in New Marlborough February 19, and two partridges disputing territory with much



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dancing and craning of necks. There are redtail hawks hunting the Duryea meadow.

Insects

Loul's daughter Margrit has identified the insects caught from the twig nests reported earlier here—bees (anthophoridae, megachilidae, colletidae) and wasps (ichneumonidae, tentredonidae, sphecidae). She also sent an article on ladybugs from the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, where it is reported that there's an invasion of *Harmonia axyridis*, the Halloween, Japanese, or Asian ladybug. They were introduced to fight aphids, and they also winter over in people's houses. In ten years they have spread all over New England; they prefer to winter in houses that are blue and gray. These beneficent, attractive visitors are bigger than our usual ladybugs, and may have from no black spots to as many as sixteen on their orange carapaces.

Fish

From his own experience, and what he hears from our ice fishermen, Dale Duryea reports a decline in the size and quantity of Lake Garfield bass. The word is that the same thing is happening in other lakes undergoing drawdowns. Dale says we've gone from a good bass location to a mediocre one in the last eight years, from six pounds and over to all too many two- to five-pounders. He urges that we not keep any under twenty inches, and go as light as we can on the draw-down.

Plants

Like the goldfinches, the willows are tuning up their color for spring. Seen from a distance, the willow gold is standing out against the other trees. Larches, too, are golding up and will show the first green of all next month. Osiers are turning red, and the grey-twigged dogwoods are getting the first infusion of rose that will become marked in the next few weeks. Happy days!

— David P. McAllester

THE OBSERVER - JANUARY

January this year was the fourth warmest according to regional records going back fifty-four years, but it had to be an all-time record for gloominess. There was precipitation on twenty days, but only 12.5" of snow. Quoting *The Berkshire Eagle*: "Since September, degree-days have totaled 3,796 — 380 below normal, for a fuel savings of approximately 9 percent so far this heating season." So *that's* the good news, offset in the short term by local economic bad news for the skiing industry and tourism generally. It hasn't been a lucrative season for selling firewood or plowing snow, either. In the long view (global warming?), at least we're releasing fewer pollutants as we burn less fuel for heat.

The real shock is comparison with the weather in January last year, which



did set an all-time record for cold, and had 42" of snow. Last year the month held four winter weather advisories, two winter weather watches, and five winter weather warnings; this year we had three winter weather advisories, period. Last year on the sixteenth of the month the high temperature was 4°, and the low was -12°; on that day this year the high was 56° and the low was 48°. Here are the other statistics for this past month of remarkable weather:

High temp. (1/15)	59°
Low temp. (1/29)	- 2°
Wind-chilled low temp. (1/28)	- 33°
Avg. high temp.	35°
Avg. low temp.	22°
Avg. temp.	29°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	20.4°
Precip. occ.	20 days
Total precip.	4.35"
Snowfall	12.5"
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	3.08"
High bar. press. (1/11)	30.43"
Low bar. press. (1/21)	29.29"
High humidity (1/23)	100%
Low humidity (1/6)	36%
Avg. wind speed	3.5 mph
High wind gust (1/27)	32 mph



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TALES FROM TEXAS

People and the Way They Talk

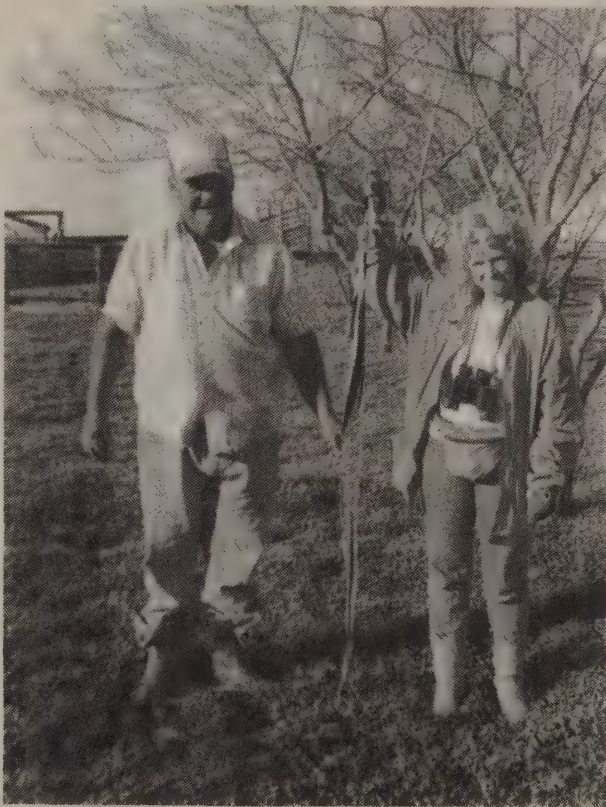
We'll be there between nine and nine-thirty tomorrow morning, if we don't hang a stump or something.

—Dee Robinson, Realtor

Among the many phenomena which have enthralled us during our stay in Texas, some of the juiciest have been the people we've met and the way they say things. Of course, much of the Central Texas vernacular is generic to all and is used with etherizing regularity. People in their seventies still call their fathers "Daddy," and all business transactions end with "Preciate it." A person on his way somewhere says he's going to "ease on over yonder." Phone conversations generally include several murmurs of "I hear ya," a promise to "let you get back to your rat-killin' now," and an assurance that we should "holler" at the caller if we need anything. When a man in overalls stopped us at Sam's Buying Club to ask, "Y'all know where I can find beans in a sack?" (pronounced "say-uck"), we knew we were deep in the heart of Texas. I guar-on-tee ya.

Certain of our acquaintances have pushed beyond local patois into a richer body of personal solecisms. One of our most lavish jargoneers is Don Ray Myer, formerly Ranch Manager of the K Bar, and long known by my family for his spirited deployment of the malapropos. To Don cellophane is "cellophone," the Environmental Protection Agency is "the ESP," and fence staples are "steeples." His "respertorial" problems require him to wear a device at night to mitigate his "acme" (sleep apnea). He gave me a recipe for winemaking which called for a package of "Fletcher's East," recommended a practice of "drafting" paper shell pecan limbs onto native pecans, and told us that scientists say the

Texas Jumbo Grasshopper is becoming "distinct." Some of Don's bloopers ("Peruna Mills") and "Walfang" (for a man named Wilfong) tend toward spoonerism, but most defy categorization. Brandishing a fresh rattlesnake skin, Don proclaimed, "This will make me a new belt, which I distinctly need." He says "usealize" for utilize, and he told Brian that, before cutting metal with a torch, "you have to stop and consider the practication of it." When a man stopped by to ask a favor based on long-standing friendship, Don retorted, "Unless my amnesia isn't working right, I haven't



Don, snakeskin, and friend Debra.

seen you in two or three years!"

Don is a gregarious man in his early forties, whose weight during the fifteen years I have known him has careened between 250 and 350 pounds on a 5' 6" frame. He was nicknamed "Pugsly" as a schoolboy, and many still call him "Pugs." Don cuts his cowboy boots down the back to more readily accommodate the breadth of his calves, and once sliced into a brand new pair of boots he was preparing to buy, sending the salespeople into frenzies. A heavy drinker, smoker,

and eater (and an excellent barbecue chef), Don survived a massive heart attack about a year ago, which only briefly interrupted his colorful, headlong rush to self-destruction. Don's looks and personal style frame his speech with singular verve and give even a timeworn colloquialism renewed trenchancy.

Of a man who abuses his Appaloosa: "He's got that horse so scared and so hyper he don't know if he's washin', dryin', or hangin' out!"

Of a well-appreciate horse in his past: "I had an ole white horse, 1,100 pounds, 16-1/2 hands high. He could carry the mail. He could cut a piss ant out of a syrup bucket."

One day after knocking at our back door: "Your barn's dead. I seen two vultures settin' on it."

Don is losing his teeth. When he smiles, the prognathous set of his jaw brings his one remaining lower incisor out in front of his upper teeth, producing a malicious-looking leer, which underlines all too well the stories of pranks and rank cruelty he has perpetrated. He once tied two cats together by the back legs and hung them across the withers of a recalcitrant horse. Horse and cats disappeared in furious conflict across the pastures. Don says, gums and tooth gleaming, "I never found out what happened out there, but I was fixing fences for weeks afterward." Reeling at yet another (and relatively mild!) example of an attitude toward animals endemic to these parts, I selected a tangential route by asking how he got the cats tied together. "Put 'em in a boot," Don said. "You can castrate them like that, too. Just put 'em in a boot."

Don brags about the way he can ream out an ear of corn with his one lone tooth, one row at a time, "better than an ole coon." He keeps a garden going year round and shows up with a bag of potatoes or a jar of seeds to give us every now and then. When he was managing the ranch, he raised hundreds of wild and domestic birds—quail, pheasant, turkey, pigeons and chickens. He kept a pair of

ELLEN PEARSON

live bobcats on display in a big cage outside the house we now live in. For a while he had a black panther to whom he fed Shetland ponies bought from the killer ring at the auction, but that got too expensive, so he sold the cat to a zoo. He hand-raised one of our Brahma bulls, named "Bubba," and Bubba used to come up to the back porch every summer afternoon for a shower under the hose. One day Bubba, weaned from his bottle but still pushy and nudgy, wound up puffing on a cigar Don shoved in the bull's mouth out of exasperation.

Don was an invaluable help to us during our orientation to the sprawling K Bar Ranch. He knows every inch of the place: where to get a shapely Christmas tree, where to find the best fossils, where the bee tree is, where the biggest Burr Oaks are, where the fence needs fixing, and where the deer bed down. We traded him an acre of land on the road at the head of the coastal pasture for the benefit of his help and expertise. There he resides in a tidy trailer house with his "Daddy" and his most recent girlfriend until he finds a more permanent location. It is anybody's guess what Don's future holds, but I believe that the same thing could be safely said to him that he once said to a friend in an argument around our barbecue pit last summer: "You ain't right, but you ain't left yet!"

— Miss El

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

My Heart Aches So!

The fleas in Alabama and Florida are always a great pain. You bomb inside your house, camper, and car. You spread Borax all over, inside and out. You use spray on all the carpets and furniture, and a different spray on the animals. Every four or five days you bathe the dogs with flea shampoo. You can't win!

The fleas LOVE little puppies. They take their blood, and swallowed they become white wig-gling worms. My little runt, the last little boy to be born, got sick at two months. The doctors and I worked so hard to keep him alive. He got so anemic his tongue was white. I made chicken soup. I "pushed" food down his little throat, water by eye dropper. Finally, the doctor decided to give a blood transferral. Question: can he live through it? HE DID!

We went home, pup between two hot-water bottles (small plastic bottles), every hour a syringe of warm Gatorade, or honey and water. We were doing fine!



MAGGIE LEONARD

His tongue was pink. He tried to walk around... went to the bathroom. He was on a bed, with rolled blankets to keep him from falling off. He had been lying quietly on the bed for four days. I woke up to see him way up on the top of the rolled blanket, looking down at his brother and sister. I tried to wake up, getting out of bed. Before I got there he had fallen! I picked him up gently from the carpet, put

him on the bed, got some warm-water bottles... got a blanket. His little eyes were staring right ahead. "OH, NO!" I knew he was going to make it. "OH, NO!"... not now!

I took the little body to the doctor. On the way, I remembered the day, long ago, when I left my own baby on a bed, not able to creep. This day he crept! I found him on the floor. Nothing wrong with him but loud yelling and a big bump!

At the doctor's, the girl (whose dog had given the blood to my pup) burst into tears. The doctor said, no broken neck, no broken back, just shock. The doctor wiped a tear away.

— Joan Woodard Reed

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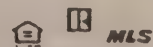
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The Old News

This month brings the twenty-fifth birthday of the *Monterey News*, an event I have marked by reading around in the archives. It's like getting lost in the attic, sitting on the floor with an open box of old letters or photographs, grazing. I got through the first eleven years before I just had to quit.

The *News* back then was composed on a typewriter and reproduced on a mimeograph machine. (Certain rare issues have lines of type that sag in the middle, as if wet. Try doing *that* on a Mac using PageMaker.) A typical issue was three or four stapled pages of colored legal size paper—blue, green, yellow, orange. Back page ads were framed in boxes made of asterisks: French cuisine at the Sun-Inside, the Florentine Stitchery, Sunday buffet (\$3.50) at Brookbend.

The first masthead is reproduced above. The following month the paper's title was done in open, upright capitals drawn by hand, without serifs, "Monterey" centered above "News," framed by a ghostly drawing of the church on the left, "Langdon's Store" and the post office to the right. They look like they might be covered with snow.

A year later a wobbly stenciled version of Edith Wilson's Town Seal became a fixture at the top left on the front page, next to the headline "Our Town," under which was usually written the local political news. Then in September of 1972 the printed masthead that has been used ever since suddenly appeared, crisp as a fall day, along with a printed Town Seal, giving the *News* of those years, on its legal size paper, the look of an old or third-world official document—a deed, say, or proclamation. Editor Patricia Howard and her successor Ellen Pearson maintained this format for the remainder of the *News*' mimeographed life, almost nine more years.

That particular month (September, 1972), the second item under "Our Town," after a warm farewell to the summer population ("It is hard to express how significantly the character of Monterey is influenced by the rich vari-

MONTEREY NEWS

Sponsored by Monterey United Church of Christ

VOLUME 1. Published monthly.

MARCH 24, 1970

ety of persons who populate our community during the summer... So, to the many friends who shared the summer with us, we want to say that we are looking for an early spring.") is "Monterey Makes NEWSWEEK." The controversy over a Route 23 bypass proposal had been in the *News* for months; this article was brief:

The August 28 issue of NEWSWEEK magazine gave a moment of national prominence to Monterey over the Route 23 issue. It did not present any information that is not generally fairly well known in this area.

The emphasis was primarily on the controversy... A number of residents... expressed regret that it failed to recognize the many ways in which the people of the town work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation.

Eight years later the national media wrote the Monterey story again. This time they couldn't report enough hope and cooperation as they recorded our effort in the fabled international energy contest. Ellen Pearson's lead editorial (November, 1980) read in part:

Who would have dreamed that on October 23 a baby helicopter bearing a pregnant journalist and her pilot would land in Greene Park and blow the last seed pods off the goldenrod? Who could have imagined the propeller on Al Silverstein's photovoltaic beanie spinning in the lights of an ABC camera crew?

...When it was all over everybody was surprised that Monterey didn't reduce its consumption of electricity by more than 15.6%. ...there was probably more gasoline, battery-stored electricity, paper and petroleum products consumed during the contest week in the name of energy conservation than the thrifty people of Monterey would ever countenance using for any other cause... Where we go from here is anybody's guess, but the possibilities are manifold.

Hundreds of single-spaced typewritten pages show all the possibilities, the places we went, before and after being encapsulated by the big media.

Fred Lancome's sculpture "Humanity" went to Paris for the Salon D'Automne's 1972 exhibition at the Grand Palais.

The main barn at Gould Farm went up in flames September 3, 1971, but no one was injured, and all twenty-four animals in the barn were saved; "friends lost no time in coming to our help."

"Dear Folks," wrote Police Chief Thaddeus Falcon to the *News* in April, 1971, "I feel a letter to you is in order, to tell you of the improvements in your police service since your almost unanimous appropriation for a full-time chief..." He detailed increased patrols, reorganized files, a new telephone system, and invited citizens into his open police office "contributed to the town by me." He wrote, "I am especially interested in keeping the drug problem out of the town of Monterey, so please don't hesitate to pass on to me anything you hear or see pertaining to drug abuse." Chief Falcon's resignation was reported in the October, 1972, *News*: "The unsolved problem in this case appeared to be the difference between the Selectmen viewing their decisions as 'supervision' and Mr. Falcon viewing them as 'unreasonable demands.'"

A heartening police story from January, 1975: Officer Robert Hardisty was on traffic duty in the town center one December morning, as usual (even today), when he heard "a child screaming" behind the general store. "He ran down to the Konkapot River and found a young girl struggling to climb out from the icy water. Officer Hardisty had her out of the water in a flash, got her into the store, stripped off her clothes, wrapped her in a blanket and dried her clothes. Then she dressed and went off to school, none the

worse for her adventure. She couldn't miss school, as she was to be in the Christmas pageant...Congratulations, Bob, on a job well done!" The young girl was Ennis Blount.

In May of 1978, after a tumultuous meeting here, the County Commissioners denied the Selectmen's petition to discontinue nine stretches of road "in deference to the strong feelings voiced by the townspeople. Moderator Peter Arlo [sic] (who allowed Vote for Arlo emery boards to be passed around during the meeting)...characterized the reaction against the petition as a widespread and increasingly more prevalent resentment ...of the voting public against 'the intrusion of government into private lives.'

Our noisy lives in this quiet place. We do notice our natural surroundings. Susan McAllester's poem appeared in the summer issue of 1979:

*Flowers are silent settled vegetation
with many devices for discrete insemination.*

*People walk about
they sing, they shout
they change their petals—
now silk, now nettles—
they ride in cars
drink in bars
cultivate tastes
dispose of wastes
invent societies
of many varieties
profess religion
Druid through Stygian
and procreate all
in a dual sprawl.*

*The quiet desire of a plant in its place
begets in single being, without embrace.*

Didn't mean to keep you, but I get
lost easily. This was just a glimpse.

— Peter Murkett

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Scandal!

February 13, 1995

To the Editor:

I note that the *Monterey News* has seen fit in its collaborative wisdom to forego reporting in its January and February issues any news of the falling-out about two months ago amongst the volunteer firemen of the town.

It is my understanding that perhaps as many as half of the firemen with the Monterey Fire Department decided to quit in a huff over some as yet undisclosed dispute.

Please report all the facts and circumstances surrounding this serious new story. The operation of the Monterey Fire Department directly affects the safety and well-being of not only all those who reside full-time and part-time within the town, but also those who reside in surrounding towns and who rely on Monterey's Fire Department to provide backup to their own fire companies.

All matters which directly concern an organization having a central effect on the town as does the Fire Department, and which organization is financed both directly and indirectly by the residents and taxpayers of the town, are matters of special interest to all.

Certainly this is not the sort of news item to be "swept under the rug."

— Glenn M. Heller
Bethesda, Maryland

*(The writer is also a resident of Route 23
near Lake Garfield.)*

Red Tape Binding Roadside Gas

February 21, 1995

To the Editor:

All of us at Gould Farm greatly appreciate the support you have given to our Roadside Store over the years. Beyond its role as a small restaurant, convenience store, and gasoline station for the community, Roadside is an integral part of the work training program for our guests—many lives have been improved

through your patronage.

Back in the mid-80s we were presented with the necessity of replacing the underground gasoline tanks. We did so with significant help from the community. Over 100 people from the town contributed toward the otherwise prohibitive expense of this project. Our motive for keeping the gas business was that it would provide a service for the town, and we were glad to be able to continue this service.

Now we have some difficult new facts to face. The gasoline "business" at Roadside at best may break even each year as we face rising costs for necessary repairs. Like you, we can buy gas cheaper in Great Barrington, even cheaper than our wholesale cost. And now we are desperately aware that the sophistication of our equipment, above and below ground, is far behind the rising tide in government regulation. In short, we foresee no end to the red tape and fund raising that may be necessary to keep the gasoline business going.

The restaurant and convenience store aspects of the Roadside Store remain strong, but could also benefit from significant improvements as we are able to afford them. We like to think that the restaurant itself is the greatest service we provide to the whole community. In light of this, and the above, there would seem to be no good argument to stay in the gas business at all.

This letter is written in order to seek input from the community before a final decision is made. We may need to act quickly in order to meet regulatory deadlines, so please do not hesitate to call or write with your personal response. There are many people in town whom I have not met; this may be a great opportunity for us to sit down and talk about Roadside or any other aspect of the Farm's relationship to the town.

On behalf of everyone at Gould Farm, I want to thank all of you for your support of Roadside Store and the Farm's other programs. With your help, we constantly strive to make the world a better place for everyone.

Gratefully,
Brian W. Snyder
Executive Director

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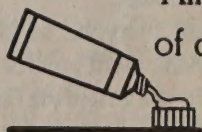
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PERSONAL NOTES

Our congratulations to **Tom Thorn**, who received a "fat" letter from the Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States notifying him that he had passed the National Board Examination and that his National Board Certificate and identification card were on their way. Way to go, Tom! We wish you luck on your state board examination in April, also. And, while we are at it, we might mention another highlight in the Thorn family—**Amanda Thorn** is most happy to have those braces off after twenty-one months!

We are fortunate in our small town that there's such a great array of talent in our midst, and we're proud to note that opening night of the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce "Winterfest" featured a sing-along at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington led by Monterey's **Karl Finger** and ex- but long-time (and still well-known and loved) resident **Vikki True**.

Also, the Bigger Light Theatre Company of Monterey, an ensemble of eight actors, directors and teachers, including **Sandy Banks** and artistic director **Lindsay Pontius** of Art School Road, performed Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge in late January, following their recent tour in Germany with the production. Many in town were fortunate enough to attend the wonderful performance of this play on the grounds of The Bidwell House this past fall.

Kudos to **Jason Tanner** and **Kevin Ohman** for their fine performances at the Western Mass Division 3 Wrestling Championships held at Mt. Everett Regional School on February 12. Jason successfully defended his Western Mass wrestling title and was crowned individual champion at 171 lbs. Kevin, too, had a great day, with a second-place finish, losing only on the 140 final. Great job, both of you! Good luck to Jason, who has now qualified for the State Division 3 tournament to be held in Wayland.

Hats off to all our Monterey students named to Mt. Everett Regional School's Honor Roll for the second quarter. In grade nine, **Ellen Hamm** achieved High

Honors and **Jeremy Vallianos** earned Honors. In grade ten, **William Conklin** made High Honors, and **Shaylan Burkhart**, **Joseph Kopetchny** and **Jeffrey Pilot** achieved Honors, and in grade eleven, **Kevin Ohman** and **Jason Tanner** both earned Honors. Also, in grade seven, **David Ohman** made Honors, and in grade eight, **Cedric Mason**, **Ian Rodgers**, **Lucy Rosenthal** and **David Shea** all made Honors. Good work, all of you!

Also, congratulations to **Samantha Goldfinger**, who achieved Honors for both the second marking period and first semester at Berkshire School in Sheffield, and to **Don Latino**, who achieved High Honors and was named to the Dean's List at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield for the first semester.

Bonner and **David McAllester**, and **Cora** and **Sudi Baker** are just back from eight magical days in Mexico. Hosted by a French-Mexican-Japanese household descended from a student at Wesleyan in the '60s, the lucky McAllester-Bakers basked in summer under the shadow of a snowcapped volcanic peak, swam in hot springs and the ocean, hiked in the barrancas, stuffed themselves with mangos, papayas, naranjas, pineapples, and tortillas, and the girls had lessons in the graphic dance style of Orissa, India.

Great to receive word that **Diana Lazzarini** is thriving as she begins her second semester at the University of Arizona in Tucson as a hospital administration major. Diana, daughter of Bob and Muriel Lazzarini of Main Road, is well known after spending two summers of "highly visible" employment at the General Store. We're all delighted that things are going so well, and CHEERS for that upcoming birthday!

Very happy birthday wishes this month to **Jeremy Vallianos**, **Arnold Garber**, and **Graham Quisenberry** on March 1, to **Janet Garber** on March 7, to **Anne Marie O'Connor** on March 8, to **Bob Gauthier** on March 10, to **Bonner McAllester** and **Valerie Costas** on March 13, to **Barbara Shea** on March 14, to **Annabel Edelman** on March 17, to **Bill Thieriot** on March 19, to **Carol Edelman** on March 23, to **Conrad Morrissey** on March 26, to **Alf Pedersen** and **Ellen Pedersen** on March 27, to **Rima Fore-**

man on March 29, and to Barbara Gauthier, Rose Salsitz and Diana Lazzarini, all on March 31.

Also, a very happy anniversary wish to Randy and Adrienne Gelbard on March 13.

Please continue to share successes, notes, birthdays, etc., etc. Contributions can be made by giving me a call at 528-4519, or by jotting your news items down and dropping them in the mail to me, just Route 23. Thanks so much!

— Stephanie Grotz

CALENDAR

Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26 AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Thursday, March 9 Public Hearing on an amendment to the Zoning ByLaws to establish Non-Criminal Disposition for violations of Zoning and Town ByLaws, 8 p.m. at the Town Offices.

Saturday, March 11

Republican Town Caucus, 1:30 p.m. at the firehouse.

Cabin Fever Community Fair, 4-9 p.m. at Sandisfield Firehouse. Entertainment, games, smorgasbord, \$2/plate.

Tuesday, March 21 Free blood pres-

sure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.

Wednesday, March 22

Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, 7 p.m. in the church basement.

Daffodil pickup at the General Store.

Saturday, March 25 Eleventh annual Maple Sugar Moon Square and Contradance Party at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8-12 p.m. Joe Baker and Mountain Laurel with guest caller Sarah Gregory Smith of Salem, Mass. Everyone is welcome. Special halftime entertainment for the whole family includes singing with Bill and Sarah Smith and a performance by Mable and Moon, Belles of the Berkshires. Home-made refreshments included in the price of admission (baked goods, coffee, tea, cider). Adults \$8, children \$3. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to Mrs. Marcel Pasche, Jan Buchar, and Flora & David Perskie for their recent contributions to the *Monterey News*. You keep us warm in the winter!

Peter S. Vallianos
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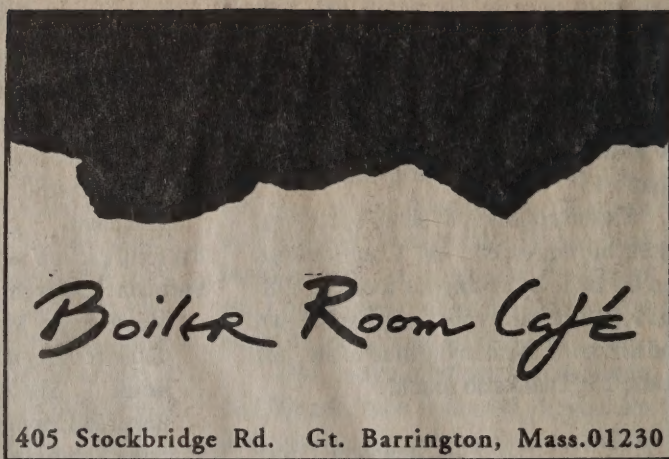


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Reporters Maggie Leonard
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Personal Notes Stephanie Grotz
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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, pp. 8, 9; Maureen Banner, pp. 3, 10, 17; Christopher Carnese, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Michèle Miller (with text by Riley Murkett), pp. 12, 13.

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